

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 00576 160825Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 /031 W

-----020224 160849Z /17

R 160755Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5924  
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 0576

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HORMATS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OCON, BEXP, BTIO, NI  
SUBJECT: BUSINESS CONFERENCE PROPOSED FOR LAGOS

1. DURING PAST WEEK BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL (BI) REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ANGELO FORTE AND EMBASSY HAVE HAD VERY ENCOURAGING DISCUSSIONS WITH FMG OFFICIALS ON HOLDING OF ROUND TABLE SEMINAR IN LAGOS MAY 15-17. BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL PROPOSED THIS CONFERENCE OVER TWO YEARS AGO BUT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE TANGIBLE PROGRESS UNTIL FORTE'S CURRENT VISIT HERE.

2. ACCORDING TO BI AT LEAST 80 TOP EXECUTIVES OF MEMBER FIRMS HAVE EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN ATTENDING CONFERENCE IN LAGOS. ROUND TABLE SESSIONS WOULD FOLLOW STANDARD FORMAT USED SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH THE YEARS BY BI. RESERVATIONS AT EKO HOTEL FOR THREE DAY EVENT HAVE ALREADY BEEN ARRANGED. MINISTRY OF EXTERNA8 AFFAIRS, WHICH IS HANDLING EVENT ON BEHALF OF FMG, IS OPTIMISTIC THAT HEAD OF STATE AND MINISTRIES WILL GIVE THEIR SUPPORT. WE, HOWEVER, ARE AWAITING DEFINITE CONFIRMATION THAT OBASANJO AND APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WILL BOTH APPROVE AND PARTICIPATE.

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3. STATED PURPOSE OF ROUND TABLE MEETING IS TO DEVELOP BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND RAPPORT BETWEEN U.S. AND NIGERIA AND RESOLVE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IMPEDING TRADE AND INVESTMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES CONFERENCE MIGHT SERVE AS THE 'NUSTED' CONFERENCE PROPOSED DURING THE HIGH LEVEL ECONOMIC BILATERAL TALKS HELD IN LAGOS NOVEMBER 7-9. ORVILLE FREEMAN, BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL'S

PRESIDENT, WILL CALL DAS HORMATS SHORTLY TO DISCUSS POSSI-  
BILITIES OF COOPERATION. WE SEE DEFINITE ADVANTAGES IN THIS  
ARRANGEMENT AND WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND AID'S  
(NICK HOLLIS, AID/RDP, HAS BEEN CHIEF PROPONENT OF MUSTED)  
VIEWS.

3- 7.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014